During the last two years, ONGC has incurred an expenditure of about Rs. 105.35 crores on hydrocarbon exploration in Andhra Pradesh.

ONGC have so far located oil and/or gas at the following prospects in Andhra Pradesh:

— Razole
— Narsapur
— Kaza
— Bhimanpalli
— Tatipaka
— Kaikalur
— Pasarlapudi

Gas agencies allotted to war widows and ex-servicemen

864. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA:

SHRI TALARI MANOHAR:

Will he Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases which have been recommended by the Defence Ministry for the allotment of LPG agencies to war widows and disabled ex-servicemen; and

(b) the number of cases in which the recommendations were accepted and LPG agencies allotted to such widows and disabled ex-servicemen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

National Gas Transmission Grid

865. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC has submitted a proposal for a 7084 mile National Gas Transmission Grid from Trivandruam and Bangalore to Punjab;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) The proposal of ONGC for a national gas grid is a part of the long-term perspective plan for the development and utilisation of natural gas. Its implementation will depend on the establishment of adequate reserves of gas and availability of financial resources for its production and utilisation. Exploration is underway for discovering oil and gas reserves.

Flaring of gas

866. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gas flared during the last three years in the existing oil and gas fields of ONGC and OIL in Upper Assam Valley, Tripura, Bombay High and other oil and gas fields of the country: and

(b) the measures taken by Government so far to utilise this precious fuel commercially?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) About 9000 MCM of gas was flared during he last three years.

(b) The following steps have been taken by Government for maximum utilisation and to minimise flaring:

(i) Installation of additional compression facilities.

(ii) Encouraging consumers to take gas on a fall-back basis, when regular customers fail to lift the committed quantities. Towards this end, a 15 per